

NOTE: THIS FILE CONTAINS ALL BULLETINS FOR SEPTEMBER 2001]
SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2001 SPECIAL BULLETIN AMERICAN DISAS-
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Tuesday, 11 September 2001 approx 8:45 New York Eastern Time and 2:45pm local time in South Africa, the world was rocked to the core on hearing about the most vicious, callous and cowardly terrorist attack launched on any country in history.

Many people in South Africa became aware of this attack within 30 minutes of it happening, but I only became aware of it at approximately 4:30pm. I immediately went to the CNN channel and I personally could not believe what I was seeing.

The drama intensified as the day wore on and although stunned at first, I then went on to 14.275 MHz to listen for anything coming out of the States. The only thing heard was D.X.

The following day, I accessed the ARRL website and started downloading information from ARES, to see how they were handling the situation.

Firstly, on the official ARRL website there was a message from their President, Jim Haynie, W5JBP. The message in brief read; "President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has expressed his deep appreciation to amateurs throughout the world who have sent messages of condolence and support. Haynie also praised the actions of Amateur Radio volunteers."

"Radio Amateurs in New York City and elsewhere around the country are doing everything they can to support the authorities in locating and assisting victims. Never have I felt more strongly about what a great privilege it is to be part of the extraordinary global community of Amateur Radio."

The report then went on to list some of the countries that have submitted condolences. Hamnet have also sent the ARRL and e-mail of condolence and have offered our services should it be necessary.

The two emergency organizations that are active in the disaster are ARES and RACES ie. Amateur Radio Emergency Services and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Organizations.

The following are headings taken from various reports that have been downloaded since Wednesday, and including Saturday morning.

12 September 2001

AMATEURS RESPONDING IN TERRORIST ATTACK AFTERMATH.

Lower Manhattan has taken on the look of a war zone. Both ARES and RACES have initiated emergency nets and other activities in response to today's attacks. Other ARES and RACES groups in the New York City and Washington DC areas were reported on alert and standing by if needed. States of emergency have been declared in affected areas.

The New York City Office of Emergency Management bunker is located adjacent to the World Trade Centre. At one point, the bunker's entrance was blocked for about 20 minutes by debris from the skyscraper's collapse, reports Bob Reed, W2CE.

The repeater net is handling emergency traffic and shadowing some New York City officials. Another group have been monitored handling medical traffic and shadowing medical officials while yet another group is at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Manhattan.

Only Emergency vehicles are being permitted into Manhattan. All bridges are closed to incoming traffic and both the Holland and Lincoln tunnels have been closed in both directions.

At this stage most if not all emergency nets were in full operation around and including Manhattan.

The report then goes on to highlight the various sections, divisions and counties that have been activated and fully operational. At this moment in time the bulk of the activity is on 2 Metres with one net on 3.993.5 MHz.

Other networks that were activated include MARS Military Affiliate Radio System and SHARES, a network of federal agencies assisted by the Amateur Radio operators who participate in MARS. By early afternoon (approx. 3-4 hours after the disaster, more than 200 stations had checked in, including participants from the Federal Emergency Management Administration, The Federal Aviation Administration, state emergency operations centers and Air Force, Navy-Marine Corps and Army MARS members. The bulk of participants were amateurs reports Bill Sexton N1IN.

At this stage, regional nets had also been activated across the country. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network SATERN, had activated an HF net on 14.265 MHz. SATERN also handles health-and- welfare inquiries via its web site. Other frequencies, which may be of interest, are in the 20M band on 14,326 MHz. where an information net is underway.

FCC, FEDERAL AGENCIES SHUT DOWN IN WAKE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS.

Along with most other federal agencies, the FCC has closed its offices and sent its employees home in the wake of the terrorist attack. Then the Federal Aviation Authority was shut down.

13 September 2001

MORE AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AS TERRORIST RESPONSE CONTINUES.

It is now into the 2nd day after the attack. Calls are now going out for more volunteers to come forward to support the Salvation Army's relief efforts in Washington DC. Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Gregory N4NW,

has put out a call for hams in the Washington DC, area to support the Salvation Army canteens providing relief to emergency workers at the Pentagon during the next few weeks of cleanup. Amateurs will provide communication to coordinate trucks and supplies. "Groups of 6 hams are needed from 5am to 12 midnight on shifts every day for the next several weeks," Gregory said.

Volunteers do not have to belong to ARES or ARRL. They need a hand-held VHF radio (no cars are allowed in the area) and at least 2 spare batteries and a charger.

What has also transpired at this point was that telephone and cellular telephone systems in the wake of the attack were "very weak" and it was rendered useless within a short period of time. As John Creel, WB3GXW indicated, "It just didn't hack it". Creel also issued this statement, quote, "If you're not a member of an ARES or RACES group, now's the time to seriously consider joining" end quote. He said under the circumstances it was difficult for him to turn away offers of help from non-members who would not have been allowed access given the "lock-down" situation following the attack on the Pentagon.

HAMS SOUGHT TO ASSIST RED CROSS IN NEW YORK CITY

In the New York City area, Amateur Radio volunteers especially those trained with the American Red Cross and in disaster communication skills were being sought to assist the American Red Cross relief effort in Manhattan. Again, they were looking specifically for amateurs with 2 metre equipment, spare batteries and portable antennas to handle daytime and overnight communicator shifts or to assist with shelter operations and other duties. Here, also, a telephone number was given but with the comment, "serious inquiries only".

As the day proceeded, more and more networks were set up and even more activated to be on standby. From New Jersey, Long Island etc., more and more hams were checking in and making themselves available.

Again, remembering, no traffic at all (except emergency units) was allowed into lower Manhattan.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEURS ASSIST AT FOURTH CRASH SITE.

In the Somerset County, not far from Johnstown, amateurs have been providing support for investigators and outside relief agencies at the crash site.

Because of interference from other repeaters in the area, Kevin Custer W3KKC, arranged preliminary repeater communication into and out of the crash site on Tuesday to help Red Cross, Salvation Army, Pennsylvania State Police, the FBI and other state and federal agencies that are on scene and continuing the crash investigations.

AMATEURS AMONG THE MISSING IN THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE ATTACK

At least four Amateur Radio operators are among the many still missing in the aftermath of Tuesday's attack on the W.T.C. in New York City. The attack also destroyed the major TV and radio-transmitting site atop one of the twin towers

The hams reported missing include:

? Steven A. "Steve" Jacobson, N2SJ, 53, of New York City, a transmitter engineer of WPIX TV, and an ARRL member. ? William V. "Bill" Steckman, WA2ACW, of W Hampstead, New York, a transmitter engineer for WNBC TV. ? Robert D. "Bob" Cirri Sr., KA2OTD, 39, an ARRL member from Nutley, New Jersey. A Port Authority police officer, Cirri was helping to evacuate workers from the building when it collapsed. ? Michael G. Jacobs, AA1GO, 54, an ARRL member from Danbury, Connecticut. Jacobs worked at Fiduciary Trust Company International, which had offices in the World Trade Centre.

14 September 2001

Still the call goes out for more Amateurs to make themselves available. The area has now grown to include the Greater New York City area including Eastern New York, Northern New Jersey and Connecticut to assist in supporting the W. T. C. disaster relief and recovery effort.

Volunteers must have the following equipment; 2 Metre or preferably a VHF/UHF (2m/70-cm) mobile radio, power supply and cables and mobile/portable mag-mounted gain antenna. Tom Carrubba (N.Y. City Long Island Section Emergency coordinator, indicated that hand-helds are not sufficient to deal with the difficult operating conditions.

He stressed the fact that operators are still needed but that this is a difficult assignment.

Amateurs are working two 12 hour shifts per day, 8am to 8pm and 8pm to 8am, plus or minus three or four hours, mostly plus. Schedule subject to change at any time. The duty requires serious commitment and involves working in a possibly hazardous area in war zone-like conditions. Volunteers will need to supply some times of protective clothing and should first contact the appropriate ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator in the tri-state area for further information.

He then went on to provide the various web sites and telephone numbers where volunteers could register.

15 September 2001

AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS RISING TO THE OCCASION

Newington, Connecticut. Some already are calling it "Amateur Radio's Finest Hour", as volunteers answer the call to assist in ongoing relief and recovery operations in New York City, Washington DC and in western Pennsylvania.

The estimate at this time is that hams may be needed for a month or longer in the New York City area, and for at least the next two weeks in Washington

DC.

Although there were many offers to assist from out-of-town operators, at this stage, regretfully, the offers were declined, as there was no provision for accommodation.

On this morning's download there also is a picture taken from a satellite approx. 3-400 miles above the earth as it passed over the site. The definition is remarkable with the long plume of smoke being blown out to sea.

WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM THIS DISASTER?

That I am not going to discuss now as this bulletin is already too long. Over the next few weeks, the whole operation will be discussed as more information becomes available. This could last a very long time and every effort will be made to download experiences from the ARRL site as well.

This, surely, must be the most profound wake-up call that has ever been issued to any Emergency Communications network, anywhere in the world.

We acknowledge with thanks, all the information downloaded from the ARRL Website and for obvious reasons, it was abbreviated.

LATE UPDATE

Please try and avoid working on the following frequencies for the time being. This has been a request received from American operators.

14.220 MHz

14.224 MHz

14.265 MHz and

14.326 MHz.

However, please feel free to monitor on these frequencies for updates and information on this disaster.

HAMNET UPDATE 7 SEPTEMBER

NEW DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR SOUTH AFRICA A new disaster management system for South Africa, bringing all 3 tiers of government together to handle disasters of any kind, is likely to be put in motion by the end of this year.

It will require the national government, every province and every metropolitan and district municipality to establish a disaster management center, to cover disasters of national, provincial or local nature, including humanitarian aid to those affected.

The present system focuses on relief, while the new policy is based on a White Paper, which emphasizes steps to avoid and minimize human and economic losses, including warnings to the public about possible dangers.

Among key features of the new national disaster management system are:

? To ensure the reduction of risk in cases of foreseeable danger; ? To build sufficient capacity to respond to disasters; ? To give the national, provincial or local government the authority to fund post-disaster recovery; and ? To ensure “rapid and effective” action to restore normality.

We, as Hamnet, have already been approached for input from our side as to how the Amateur Radio fraternity, who are specifically trained for emergency communication, can fit into this new system.

Jan Schubart, ZS6ARV, has been approached to supply the necessary information to Henk van Elst, who is an authority on the subject of disaster management and we believe the person who is responsible for the development of the new system.

We look forward in anticipation as to how the new system will work and where we will fit into the scheme of things.

GUJARAT (INDIA) EARTHQUAKE STATISTICS

On January 26th at approximately 8:46 local time, an earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter Scale occurred in western India. The epicenter was placed approximately 69 kilometers northeast of Bhuj in Gujarat State.

According to the Government of India, the earthquake impacted nearly 8000 villages in 21 districts, resulting in 20,000 deaths, approximately 170,000 injuries and almost 16 million people affected.

Damage to infrastructure exceeded \$453 million. Approx. 1 million houses, 23,000 schoolrooms were damaged or destroyed and three hospitals, 21 primary health centers, four community health centers and 140 health sub-centers were lost. In addition, the earthquake disrupted water supply, sanitation, electrical, communication and transport systems. Destroyed mills, food warehouses and irrigation structures.

At present, there are problems in the following areas of the world. Floods in India, the ongoing Chechnya problems, Afghanistan, the Great Lakes region, the Balkans and West Africa.

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2001 COMPILED AND PREPARED BY FRANCOIS ZS6BUU

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY Bulletins around the country Outstanding Questionnaires Hamnet Repeater Frequencies Professionalism in Emergency Communications New Divisional Structuring Final Database News from around the country

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Sunday mornings kick off with Hamnet KZN. They start at 07H15 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Wally ZS5WP.

Then there is the national Bulletin on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Martin ZS6MSG. In Gauteng, 145,700Mhz is also used for a local transmission. The time is 16:30 local until propagation improves when it will revert to 17H00.

Next we have Gauteng North. Their bulletin runs from 18H00 local on 145.725Mhz with a relay on 3,650 by Rudie ZS6DX.

Next is North West Province with a club bulletin on Mondays at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz output for those who already fall into the new band plan.

Last but not least the Hamnet Western Cape Province. They run a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 3,674 relayed by Matt ZS1MJJ in the 80M band and on their local repeaters, 145:625Mhz, 145:700Mhz, 145:750Mhz and various other links.

Whatever you missed is available in the Hamnet Website within the S. A. R. L. Website under the heading "Hamnet News regularly updated", or it may have been sent to you by Packet radio thanks to Rudie ZS6DX.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONNAIRE'S

PLEASE LET ME HAVE THE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONNAIRES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS IS HAMPERING THE ISSUING OF THE NEW I. D. CARD FOR HAMNET MEMBERS. YOU MAY RECALL, YOUR OFFICIAL BAR CODED I. D. NUMBER NOW FORMS PART OF THE NEW CARD AND WE NEED THAT NUMBER BEFORE WE CAN START ISSUING NEW HAMNET I. D. CARDS.

As far as possible, the new Database has now been completed and will be installed on to the League's Computer during the next few days. At the council meeting on 15 September, we hope to have the Database available on a CD for installation on any computer and a copy for each Councilor.

HAMNET FREQUENCIES 2 METERS

The central Wits repeater as it was known on 145,700 was removed from its current location to a new location to be run and maintained by the Sandton Branch.

Hamnet does not "own" frequencies if one can put it that way. The term we use is "preferred" frequency. On 2 Meters, 145,700Mhz countrywide has always been regarded as the "preferred" frequency for emergency communication. This specific frequency may not always be in a situation where it can be accessed for an emergency. In such cases an alternative frequency may be "preferred" and communication may continue on another repeater or simplex frequency.

The demand on our services of late has been quiet and we hope it will stay that way. However, should an emergency arise, we respectfully and in the spirit

of Amateur Radio, request that 145,700Mhz still be regarded as a first choice emergency communication frequency.

On 7,070 in the 40 meter band we again request that conversations continue as usual but please be aware that this is Hamnet's "preferred" frequency for emergency communication and that we leave a reasonable pause for a station to break in should there be an emergency.

PROFESSIONALISM IN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

It has come to my attention that offering your service as a communicator in any sporting or other events, you will be taxed on your "Professionalism as a communicator". Being a member of Hamnet, is no passport to acceptance.

We need to prove our efficiency when the chips are down. Can you meet those requirements?

It may surprise you, but in countries like America, Britain, Australia and so on, becoming a select member of an Emergency Communications Unit, you need to prove yourself by way of passing certain exams and other criteria to ensure acceptance.

We do not lay down strict rules at this stage, and I am aware of certain modules having been compiled by Jan Schubart ZS6ARV. I intend to have a look at those modules but will, at this stage, not enforce their completion but make it voluntary.

But be aware of the level of professionalism that is expected of us.

NEW DIVISIONAL RESTRUCTURING CODING

We still await the coding format for the various Municipalities around the country. It is essential that we become aware of the various new councils and name changes that have taken place around the country.

As soon as this list becomes available, it will be either distributed via our Internet Website or by some other means. My suggestions at present is that should you get a call of an emergency in some unpronounceable name, please find out what this area was called before the name change, to avoid confusion.

HAMNET DATABASE FINAL LISTINGS

Herewith the current list call signs only, of Amateur Radio Operators who have indicated their willingness to remain on as Hamnet members.

ZR1JPA ZR1PDT ZR1SBM ZR2T ZR4DJ ZR4G ZR4MJ ZR5CW
ZR5DES ZR6DAN ZR6HF ZR6JHB ZR6MDK ZR6NC ZS1BMT
ZS1DFR ZS2AOZ ZS2FM ZS2GIN ZS2IV ZS2MW ZS2OC ZS2RT
ZS2U ZS2W ZS3BR ZS30C ZS4A ZS4AT ZS4C ZS4EP ZS4HX
ZS4JR ZS4KC ZS4PA ZS4PK ZS4PV ZS4RN ZS4TV ZS4VS ZS4ZR
ZS5ABD ZS5BBO ZS5BP ZS5CD ZS5GN ZS5GR ZS5IH ZS5J
ZS5JAN ZS5KD ZS5LP ZS5LS ZS5M ZS5PJ ZS5Q ZS5R ZS5SK

ZS5TT ZS5TUB ZS5VE ZS5VO/6 ZS5WFD ZS5WI ZS5WP ZS5YG
ZS6ACT ZS6ALJ ZS6ANU ZS6APO ZS6ARV ZS6AYC ZS6BBE
ZS6BDL ZS6BKO ZS6BML ZS6BNE ZS6BTM ZS6BUU ZS6BXL
ZS6BXP ZS6BYQ ZS6CZI ZS6DX ZS6GC ZS6GMJ ZS6HH ZS6HLJ
ZS6L ZS6MCG ZS6MWG ZS6NKM ZS6RX ZS6TY ZS6VB ZS6VXN
ZS6WAL ZS6WC ZS6XU ZS6ZGL ZS6ZR Z21KI/R Z21KJ/R.

LATE CONFIRMATIONS

ZS6PHD ZS6GPM ZS6RAP ZS6MAC ZS6AKI ZS6NS ZR1IKB ZS5HV
ZR6LDW ZS1B ZS2PJP -

One hundred and fourteen confirmed to date. All unconfirmed members have now be deleted from the list, and the remaining confirmed members will form the core of the new Hamnet Group from which we will build our emergency Communication Network.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

A newspaper clipping was faxed to me from Tubby Waldeck ZS5TUB which appeared in the local Amanzimtoti newspaper. In fact it was an interview with Tubby on his Amateur Radio hobby. What was also good about the article is the publicity that Hamnet as an Emergency Organization of the S. A. R. L. received.

Well done Tubby and thank your for sending me this clipping.

Apart from listening to the various bulletins, should there be news from your area for the main bulletin, please send your contributions to either jans@netdial.co.za or francois@overflow.co.za.

Contributions are always welcome and it also supplements the Sunday get together on 10,130 and 7,070. It also helps to ad some spice to the regular Sunday bulletin.

Bulletin Ends